

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 15417

AVIATION WEEK & SPACE TECHNOLOGY
24 November 1980

Washington Roundup

Intelligence Shifts

Despite discord within the Reagan Administration intelligence transition team (see p. 17), described last week as "elbows and knees infighting," some patterns are emerging that may change the course of U.S. intelligence. Clandestine operations will be emphasized and supported by legislation, executive orders, administrative actions and presidential initiative. The new Administration will commit the necessary resources to have an effective intelligence capability, transition team officials said. "This will be a 180-deg. change in direction, but our national technical means of collection still are important even if oversold in recent years," one Reagan official said. "We need to not only double the number of reconnaissance systems relying on technology, but we also must work to improve technology to avoid the uncertainty inherent in these systems." The official added that the capability of reconnaissance spacecraft has been greatly exaggerated in seeking to promote SALT 1 and 2 negotiations and that little has been done to enhance satellite survivability despite "a clear and present danger" of Soviet attacks.

The new Reagan regime also is ready to put a stop to the Central Intelligence Agency's monopoly of the collection, flow, analysis and distribution of intelligence data under Project Apex, a reorganization of the intelligence community and its various compartments. Apex was touted as a system to stop the leaks of intelligence material, but it shifted character and became a control mechanism for the director of Central Intelligence, Adm. Stansfield Turner. It is widely opposed by military intelligence agencies, and even some CIA officials. Turner sold it to the White House over the opposition on the basis it would eliminate leaks.

Transition Team Rancor Causes Concern

Washington—A congressional advisory group expressed concern to President-elect Ronald Reagan as he arrived here last week over ideological political factions and the effect they are having on the transition team.

Within a day after Reagan's arrival the transition team captain for intelligence, Lawrence H. Silberman, former deputy attorney general and former ambassador to Yugoslavia, resigned amidst charges that he was being "sniped at by William E. Timmons, deputy director of the transition, and those aligned with him in what is being called the moderate element," one transition official said.

EXCERPTED